

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendment and reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. By the foregoing amendment, claims 18 and 26 have been amended. Claims 1-13 were canceled by preliminary amendment. Thus, claims 14-60 remain pending in the application.

The following requirements, objections and rejections were made in the Office Action:

1. The declaration is objected to for failure to state that all errors which are being corrected up to the time of filing of the declaration arose without any deceptive intention on the part of the applicant;

2. Claims 14-60 are rejected under 37 CFR §1.175(b)(1) as being based on a defective reissue declaration;

3. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,918,677 to Head in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,746,091 to Owen et al.; and

4. Claims 18, 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Russian Published Application RU 2079633 in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,746,091 to Owen et al.

Regarding the objections to the declaration, and the rejections of claims 14-60 under 37 CFR §1.175(b)(1), please note that the present application is a division of a prior reissue application having serial no. 10/367,619. The present divisional application will be recombined with the prior application when the divisional application is in condition for allowance. It is the understanding of the undersigned attorney that a supplemental reissue declaration can be submitted when the divisional applications are recombined with the prior application and the prior application is in

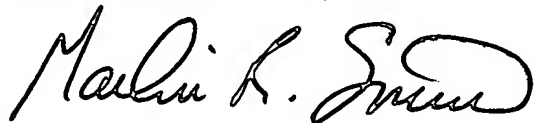
condition for allowance. This would provide for a much more economical and straightforward prosecution of these reissue applications and is permitted by the rules of practice since a reissue patent will not issue directly from the divisional applications.

Regarding the obviousness rejections of claims 18, 26 and 27, please note that independent claims 18 and 26 have been amended above to recite that the wellbore connector or the flow passage are connected to or provide fluid communication with at least three wellbores. The references cited in the obviousness rejections do not describe or suggest these features of the claimed invention, and so the examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the obviousness rejections.

The examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 516-0030 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present application. In particular, if the examiner wishes to discuss the issue of how to handle the requirement for a supplemental reissue declaration in each of the divisional applications, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone interview.

Respectfully submitted,

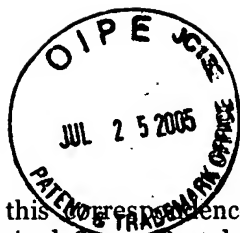
KONNEKER & SMITH, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marlin R. Smith", with a stylized, cursive script.

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Dated: July 19, 2005

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Attorney Docket No.: 970194U1D1R1D1USA

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450,

on JULY 19, 2005
Sherna Sufko